

Questions from JFAC Chair on PreK enrollment for 2024-25 and responses from APS, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction (March 2024)

Is the 1,221 PreK number allocated by the Office of the Academic Officer based on available PreK seats in APS classrooms? Or something else?

The number is based on the available PreK seats across all APS schools and classrooms. We have monitored PK enrollment, especially the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) program, closely since the pandemic. Following national and VA trends, PK enrollment has been one of the slowest groups to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels.

When was the last time it was adjusted?

The number is adjusted annually based on programming needs and student eligibility.

Could that number be bigger (for example if APS wanted to expand PreK offerings to help fill under capacity ES)?

Could it be smaller (If birth rates have declined and the number of PreK age students has declined and APS has not filled those 1,235 since 2019 should that number be smaller)? The number can be adjusted. It would likely be adjusted to fewer seats based on recent enrollment history.

How can/should that number be adjusted to more accurately reflect design capacity availability and to inform facility planning?

Possible efficiencies could be gained by potentially moving classes and programs, especially in south and central Arlington to underutilized facilities. Transportation would need to be a consideration.